

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02608 131440Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 TRSE-00 /067 W
-----131513Z 055028 /44

R 131403Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5697
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2608

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: 23 PARTIES FILE FOR KNESSET ELECTION

1. BY THE TIME THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
CLOSED ITS DOORS LAST NIGHT TWENTY-THREE LISTS HAD
BEEN REGISTERED FOR THE MAY 17 KNESSET ELECTION.
EACH LIST HAD TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A IL 40,000
DEPOSIT AND, IF NOT NOW REPRESENTED IN THE KNESSET,
BY 750 SIGNATURES. THE COMMITTEE HAS UNTIL 18 DAYS
PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY TO DISQUALIFY ANY LIST FOUND
NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ELECTION LAW.

2. LAST MINUTE EFFORTS BY ARIK SHARON TO RETURN TO
THE LIKUD COLLAPSED YESTERDAY WHEN LIBERAL PARTY
LEADER SIMHA EHRLICH THREATENED TO LEAVE THE LIKUD
IF SHARON WERE READMITTED AT THIS LATE DATE.
NEGOTIATIONS OVER INCORPORATING SHARON'S SHLOMZION
PARTY INTO THE LIKUD LIST HAD STRUNG OUT FOR
DAYS AND EVOLVED INTO A BATTLE OF NERVES AS TO
WHO WOULD ULTIMATELY GIVE IN TO THE OTHER'S
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DEMANDS. AT THE 11TH HOUR SHARON CAVED BUT IT
WAS TOO LATE. SHLOMZION WILL RUN AS A SEPARATE
PARTY. (COMMENT: SHARON HAS EMERGED FROM THE
AFFAIR LOOKING SLIGHTLY RIDICULOUS. VIEWED
A FEW MONTHS AGO AS A SERIOUS CONTENDER WHO
COULD ADD TO A FUTURE COALITION, HE NOW APPEARS
AS AN ECCENTRIC WITHOUT POLITICAL SNESE.)

3. THE MAKINGS OF ANOTHER CLIFF HANGER DEVELOPED WHEN MOSHE DAYAN CONTACTED THE LIKUD ON APRIL 11 TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMON GROUND ON WEST BANK POLICY. DAYAN, UNHAPPY OVER PERES' NEW ALLIANCE WITH ALLON AND EBAN--PARTICULARLY OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLON BECOMING THE NEXT DEFENSE MINISTER--REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION FROM THE LIKUD ON THE LATTER'S WEST BANK POSITION. DAYAN WANTED A COMMITMENT THAT THE LIKUD WOULD NOT ANNEX THE WEST BANK UNTIL AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES. ALTHOUGH THE LIKUD PLATFORM SPEAKS OF "EXTENDING THE ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY TO THE WEST BANK," THERE IS NO MENTION OF TIMING. NONETHELESS, THIS SECOND FLIRTATION OF DAYAN WITH THE LIKUDNIKS COLLAPSED (SEE TEL AVIV 2500). DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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